

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program

This guidance applies to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) meal patterns for preschoolers (ages 1-4) in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), Seamless Summer Option (SSO) of the NSLP, and Afterschool Snack Program (ASP) of the NSLP. The SSO follows the NSLP and SBP preschool meal patterns. The requirements for the preschool meal patterns are the same as the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and are defined by the USDA’s final rule, *Child and Adult Care Food Program: Meal Pattern Revisions Related to the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010*.

For information on the preschool meal patterns and crediting foods, refer to the CSDE’s guide, *Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP*, and visit the “Grains Component for Preschoolers” section of the CSDE’s *Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs* webpage.



Yogurt and soy yogurt must comply with the USDA’s sugar limit to credit as the meat/meat alternates component in the preschool meal patterns (see “[Sugar Limit for Yogurt](#)” in this document). Yogurt includes plain yogurt, flavored yogurt, and yogurt with added fruit, either blended or on the bottom. Yogurt must meet the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) standard of identity for yogurt ([21 CFR 131.200](#)), low-fat yogurt ([21 CFR 131.203](#)), or nonfat yogurt ([21 CFR 131.206](#)).



Serving Size

The required serving for yogurt is based on volume (cups) or weight (ounces) and is the same for all types, flavors, and fat contents. A ½-cup serving (volume) or 4 ounces (weight) credits as 1 ounce of the meat/meat alternates component in the preschool meal patterns. Table 1 shows the meat/meat alternates contribution for different serving sizes of yogurt.

Serving size	Meat/meat alternates
1/8 cup (1 ounce)	1/4 ounce (minimum creditable amount)
1/4 cup (2 ounces)	1/2 ounce
1/2 cup (4 ounces)	1 ounce
3/4 cup (6 ounces)	1 1/2 ounces
1 cup (8 ounces)	2 ounces

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP

Sugar Limit for Yogurt

Yogurt and soy yogurt served in preschool meals and ASP snacks cannot contain more than 23 grams of total sugars per 6 ounces (no more than 3.83 grams per ounce). Menu planners can use the Nutrition Facts panel to determine if yogurt meets the limit for sugars.

Table 2 shows how to calculate if a yogurt product meets the sugar limit, using the sample Nutrition Facts panel on the right. This yogurt contains 2.45 grams of sugars per ounce, which complies with the sugar limit for yogurt in preschool meals and ASP snacks.

For more information, refer to the handouts, training slides, and webinars in English and Spanish on the USDA's webpages, [Calculating Sugar Limits for Yogurt in the CACFP](#) and [Choose Yogurts that are Lower in Sugar](#).

Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 5.3 oz. container (113 g)	
Servings Per Container about 1	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories	110
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 0g	0%
Saturated Fat 0g	
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 5mg	2%
Sodium 40 mg	2%
Potassium 190 mg	6%
Total Carbohydrates 15g	5%
Dietary Fiber 0g	0%
Sugars 13g	
Including 0g Added Sugars	
Protein 13 g	26%

Table 2. Steps for calculating compliance with the preschool sugar limit for yogurt

1. List the grams (g) of sugar per serving from the Nutrition Facts label.	A	13	grams of sugar
2. List the serving size in ounces (oz) from the Nutrition Facts label.	B	5.3	serving size (ounces)
3. Calculate the grams of sugars per ounce (Divide A by B).	C	2.45	grams of sugars per ounce
4. Is C equal to or less than 3.83? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If “yes,” the product meets the preschool sugar limit.			

The CSDE encourages menu planners to read labels and choose products that are lower in added sugars and do not contain nonnutritive sweeteners (such as aspartame, acesulfame potassium, sucralose, and stevia) or sugar alcohols. These products are often labeled as “light” or “lite.”

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP

Fruits in Yogurt

Fruits in commercially prepared yogurt (either blended or on the bottom or top) do not credit toward the fruits component. Menu planners may credit fruits offered as a separate component, such as yogurt topped with fresh blueberries or sliced strawberries in a yogurt-fruit parfait.

Yogurt in Smoothies

Yogurt and soy yogurt that meet the preschool sugar limit may credit as the meat/meat alternates component when served in smoothies. To credit smoothies made on site, SFAs must have a standardized recipe that documents the amount of yogurt per serving. For example, to credit a smoothie as 1 ounce of the meat/meat alternates component, the SFA's recipe must indicate that each serving contains $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of yogurt. For information on standardized recipes, visit the "[Crediting Foods Made from Scratch in Preschool Menus](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

To credit yogurt in commercial smoothies, SFAs must obtain a Child Nutrition (CN) label or product formulation statement (PFS) stating the total weight of meat/meat alternates contained in one serving of the product. Commercial smoothies cannot credit as the meat/meat alternates component without a CN label or PFS.



For information on CN labels and PFS forms, refer to the CSDE's resources [Child Nutrition \(CN\) Labeling Program](#), [Product Formulation Statements](#), and [Accepting Processed Product Documentation in the NSLP and SBP](#), and the USDA's PFS forms and [Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement](#). For additional guidance, visit the "[Crediting Commercial Processed Products in Preschool Menus](#)" section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage.

The addition of yogurt to a smoothie is not a substitution for fluid milk in the preschool meal patterns. Fluid milk must be offered in all meals to meet the milk component requirement.

For more information on smoothies, refer to the CSDE's resource, [Crediting Smoothies for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP](#).

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP

Noncreditable Yogurt

Drinkable or squeezable yogurt and frozen yogurt do not credit in the preschool meal patterns. The FDA's definition and standard of identity requires that yogurt must be "coagulated," not liquid. The FDA does not have a standard of identity for frozen yogurt. Homemade yogurt does not credit for food safety reasons. Yogurt-flavored products (such as yogurt bars and yogurt-covered fruit or nuts) do not meet the FDA's definition and standard of identity for yogurt, and do not credit in the preschool meal patterns.

Serving the Same Yogurt Products to Preschoolers and Grades K-12

The NSLP and SBP meal patterns for preschoolers and grades K-12 have different crediting requirements for yogurt and soy yogurt. The meal patterns for grades K-12 do not require a sugar limit. If SFAs serve the same types of yogurt and soy yogurt to grades K-12 and preschoolers, these foods must comply with the preschool sugar limit. The two exceptions to this requirement are when SFAs choose to follow:

- the K-5 meal pattern for preschoolers and grades K-5 who eat in the same service area at the same time; or
- the ASP K-12 meal pattern for preschoolers and grades K-12 who eat in the same service area at the same time.

For more information on the meal pattern requirements for preschoolers and grade K-12 eating together, refer to section 1 of CSDE's guide, *Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP*, the "Serving the Same Menu to Preschoolers and Grades K-12" section of the CSDE's *Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs* webpage, and *USDA Memo SP 37-2017: Flexibility for Co-Mingled Preschool Meals: Questions and Answers*. For information on the differences between the meal patterns for preschoolers and grades K-12, refer to the CSDE's resource, *Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschoolers and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP*.

Resources

Calculating Sugar Limits for Yogurt in the CACFP in English and Spanish (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/calculating-sugar-limits-yogurt-cacfp>

Choose Yogurts that are Lower in Sugar – Handouts, training slides, and webinars in English and Spanish (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/choose-yogurts-are-lower-sugar>

Comparison of Meal Pattern Requirements for Preschool and Grades K-12 in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Preschool/Comparison_Preschool_Grades_K-12_SNP.pdf

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP

Crediting Smoothies for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/Credit_Smoothies_SNP_preschool.pdf

Food Buying Guide for Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/tn/food-buying-guide-for-child-nutrition-programs>

Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Patterns-Preschoolers-in-School-Nutrition-Programs>

Meat/Meat Alternates Component for Preschoolers (CSDE webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Patterns-Preschoolers-in-School-Nutrition-Programs/Related-Resources#MMA>

Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Preschool/Menu_Planning_Guide_Preschool.pdf

Product Formulation Statement (Product Analysis) for Meat/Meat Alternate (M/MA) Products in Child Nutrition Programs (USDA):

https://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/resource-files/PFS_Meats-Meat_Alternates_Fillable_508.pdf

Resources for the Preschool Meal Patterns (CSDE):

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Preschool/Resources_Preschool_Meal_Patterns.pdf

Standardized Recipe Form for School Nutrition Programs:

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/Standardized_Recipe_Form_Schools.docx

Standardized Recipes (Documents/Forms section of the CSDE's Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs webpage):

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/Nutrition/Meal-Patterns-Preschoolers-in-School-Nutrition-Programs/Related-Resources#StandardizedRecipes>

Tips for Evaluating a Manufacturer's Product Formulation Statement (USDA):

<https://fns-prod.azureedge.net/sites/default/files/resource-files/manufacturerPFTipsheet.pdf>

USDA Memo SP 40-2019, CACFP 17-2019 and SFSP 17-2019: Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs:

<https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/smoothies-offered-child-nutrition-programs>

USDA Memo SP 53-2016 and CACFP 21-2016: Crediting Tofu and Soy Yogurt Products in the School Meal Programs and the CACFP:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/crediting-tofu-and-soy-yogurt-products-school-meal-programs-and-cacfp>

Crediting Yogurt for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP



For more information, refer to the CSDE's *Menu Planning Guide for Preschoolers in the NSLP and SBP* and visit the CSDE's *Meal Patterns for Preschoolers in School Nutrition Programs* webpage, or contact the *school nutrition programs staff* in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

This document is available at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/SDE/Nutrition/NSLP/Crediting/Credit_Yogurt_SNP_preschool.pdf.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the *USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form*, (AD-3027) found online at: <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint>, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons. The Connecticut Department of Education does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program, or educational activity on the basis of age, ancestry, color, criminal record (in state employment and licensing), gender identity or expression, genetic information, intellectual disability, learning disability, marital status, mental disability (past or present), national origin, physical disability (including blindness), race, religious creed, retaliation for previously opposed discrimination or coercion, sex (pregnancy or sexual harassment), sexual orientation, veteran status or workplace hazards to reproductive systems, unless there is a bona fide occupational qualification excluding persons in any of the aforementioned protected classes.

Inquiries regarding the Connecticut State Department of Education's nondiscrimination policies should be directed to: Levy Gillespie, Equal Employment Opportunity Director/Americans with Disabilities Coordinator (ADA), Connecticut State Department of Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 505, Hartford, CT 06103, 860-807-2071, levy.gillespie@ct.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.